



Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

March 3, 2013 (Third Sunday in Lent)

GATHERING

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, and let your soul delight itself in abundance.

Incline your ear, and come to Me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

Seek the LORD while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near.

O God, You are my God; earnestly I seek You.

**I thirst for You, my whole being longs for You,
in a dry and parched land where there is no water.**

So we have looked upon You in the sanctuary, beholding Your power and Your glory.

Because Your steadfast love is better than life, my lips shall praise You. So I will bless You as long as I live: I will lift up my hands in Your name.

— from Isaiah 55:1-3, 6; Psalm 63:1-4



Living Waters Cross, Maria Laach, Contemp.



Step By Step

O God, You are my God,
And I will ever praise You. (repeat)

I will seek You in the morning,
And I will learn to walk in Your ways;
And step by step You'll lead me,
And I will follow You all of my days.

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INVOCATION

Prayers of welcome and praise

Come Now, Almighty King

Come now, Almighty King,
Help us Your name to sing.
We will declare Your praise,
Righteous in all Your ways.
Father, all glorious,
O'er all victorious,
Come and reign over us,
Ancient of Days.

Come now, incarnate Word,
Take up Your mighty sword.
Our humble prayers attend,
Faithful until the end.
Come, and Your people bless,
And give Your word success.
Lord of all righteousness,
On us descend.





Come, Holy Spirit, come,
Your perfect will be done.
Brighten our darkened hearts,
Your precious life impart.
Guide us into Your truth,
So we might bear more fruit.
Fill us with more of You,
Spirit of pow'r.

CCLI Song #4088972 ©2001 Sovereign Grace Praise. Bob Kauflin, Martin Madan, John Spiro.
Based on the traditional hymn.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The word of the Lord:

We know that God causes all things to work together for good to
those who love God, who are called according to His purpose.

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution,

Or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

**But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him
who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life,
nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to
come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other
created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of
God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.** — Romans 8:28, 35, 37-39

Come Thou, Almighty King

To Thee, great One in Three,

Eternal praises be,

Hence evermore;

Thy sov'reign majesty

May we in glory see.

And to eternity

Love and adore.

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PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Call to confession:

Seek the LORD while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near.

Let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts.

Let them return to the LORD, that He may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.

*“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,”
says the LORD. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so
are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your
thoughts.”*

– Isaiah 55:6-9

[Silence]

God of compassion, we cry out to You, for You have promised to hear and deliver. We humbly confess that we have sinned against You and against others, in thought, word and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. Forgive us and heal us, O Lord by Your grace and lovingkindness, for Your sake and for Your glory. Amen.

Wait for the Lord

Congregation:

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

Cantor:

1. I waited for the Lord.

God heard my cry.

2. Our eyes are fixed on the Lord our God.

3. Seek first the Kingdom of God.

Seek and you shall find.



ASSURANCE OF PARDON

This is God's assurance of His love and deliverance:

The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and great in mercy. He is righteous in all His ways, and faithful in all He does.

The LORD is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth. He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He will hear their cry and save them. The LORD keeps all who love Him.

My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD, and all flesh will bless His holy name forever and ever.

– Psalm 145:8, 17-21

TIME OF OFFERING

Meditation and reflection:

Because Your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise You.

My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast, and my mouth praises You with joyful lips when I think of You on my bed, and meditate on You in the watches of the night.

For You have been my help, and in the shadow of Your wings I sing for joy. My soul clings to You; Your right hand upholds me.

– Psalm 63:3, 5-8

My Lips will Praise You

My lips will praise You, for You are holy.
My voice will ever rise before Your throne.
My heart will love You, for You are lovely,
And You have called me to become Your own.

I am Your own,
And I will worship You alone.
I am Your own, I am Your child.
I am Your own,
And I will worship at Your throne.
I am Your own, And I will love You.

CCLI Song No. 2552912 ©1998 Ariose Music/Mountain Spring Music. Twila Paris.



THE WORD

Psalm 63:1-8

Luke 13:1-9

CRY OUT TO THE LORD

During this Lenten journey, we cry out to the Lord, whose steadfast love is better than life, and pray that the Lord will hear our voice and see our deepest needs.

For sighing has become my daily food; my groans pour out like water. (Job 3:24)

Pouring into Lent

And during this Lenten journey, we will remember that the Lord has made an everlasting covenant with us, His people. And nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ our Lord.

Trust in him at all times, you people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge. (Psalm 62:8)

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer,
When I call answer me.

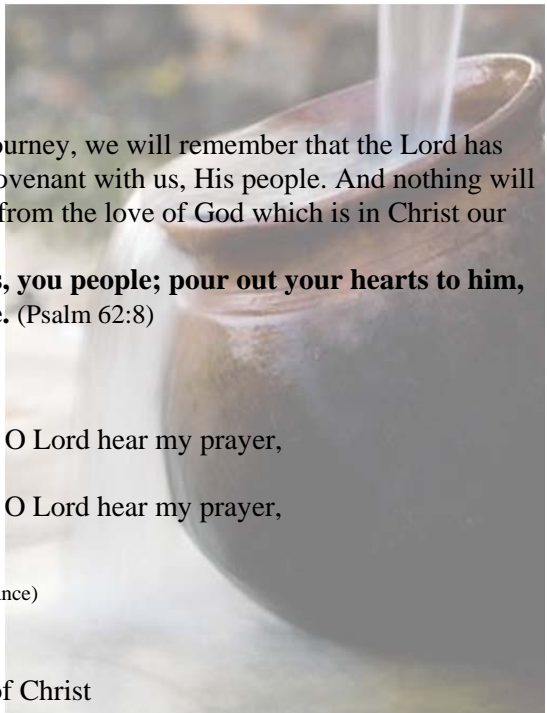
O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer,
Come and listen to me.

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THE TABLE

Remembering the Body of Christ

The Lord be with you! **And also with you!**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give Him thanks and praise.





The Lord's Prayer (spoken)

**Our Father, Who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive our debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
Forever. Amen**

Let the Rain of Your Presence

Let the rain of Your presence fall on me,
Every day that I live, with every breath I breathe;
Let the rain of Your presence fall on me,
Everywhere that I go, Lord, let Your presence flow,
Rain on me.

Love divine, joy unspeakable,
Overflowing in my soul.
This heart of mine is refreshed and at rest,
In Your presence, in Your presence.

CCLI Song No. 1606354; ©1994 Praise On The Rock Music; Danny Chambers

Living Water

Come, Living Water flow through me like a river.
My heart's been thirsting so long.
Flood through my soul and pour out Your mercy.
Come, Living Water, fill me.

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SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

Step By Step (reprise)

I will seek You in the morning,
And I will learn to walk in Your ways;
And step by step You'll lead me,
And I will follow You all of my days.

CCLI Song #696994 ©1991 BMG Songs, Inc. David (Beaker) Strasser.

Benediction:

As you go forth into the world, do so remembering that our God, who hears when we cry out to Him, is near. His steadfast love is our Refuge and Comfort. Therefore you shall not be shaken.

We go, and we remember, with grateful hearts – to love and serve the Lord. Amen. Thanks be to God.

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

“If we always see God in our minds, and always remember Him, everything appears tolerable to us. We can bear everything easily and be above it all. For when we see or remember a loved one, our spirits are aroused and our thoughts elevated. We bear everything easily while delighting in the recollection. So then when we call to mind and remember the One who actively loved us, would we feel pain, or dread any terrifying, fearful or dangerous thing? Would we be cowardly? Never. For things appear difficult to us only when we don't remember God as we should, when we don't always carry Him in our thoughts. When we don't, He can rightly say, ‘Thou hast forgotten Me, I also will forget thee.’ Then the evil would be doubled: we forget Him and He us. . . . For the effect of God's memory is great. But so is the effect of our remembering Him. The result is that we choose good things and accomplish them. . . . Therefore, if we want to obtain good things, let us seek the things of God. For those who seek the things of this world will fail, but those who prefer the things of God will obtain them.” – Chrysostom

Lectionary for next week: Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21;
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

www.Epiclesis.org | Info line: (916)572-9113
Sunday mornings at The Carmichael Chapel, 4600 Winding Way
(Corner of Winding Way and Pasadena), Sacramento, CA 95841.
Informal gathering: 10:00 AM; Worship at 10:30 AM.

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